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General Assembly

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The attention of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is drawn to the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, listed in sections II to IV below, which are relevant to the work of the Special Committee in 1999.

II. General resolutions on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

2. The Special Committee was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

3. By its resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

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4. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

5. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Special Committee, adopted resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

6. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, by which it declared the period 1990-2000 the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, adopted as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1). The plan stated that the Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:

(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration;

(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

In addition, the Special Committee was to continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories, and, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, was to make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies.

8. At its fifty-third session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[2] the General Assembly adopted resolution 53/68 of 3 December 1998, in which it approved the report of the Special Committee covering its work during 1998, including the programme of work envisaged for 1999,[3] and requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that had not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and, in particular:

(a) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session;

(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

(c) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

(d) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

In addition, the Assembly called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and to ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and also called upon the administering Powers that had not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1999 session.

9. By a letter dated 14 August 1998 addressed to the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2133), the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations informed the Acting Chairman of the decision of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to withdraw from the Committee with effect from 14 August 1998. The Acting Chairman transmitted the above-mentioned letter to the President of the General Assembly for appropriate action.

10. As at 1 January 1999, the Special Committee was composed of the following 24 members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

III. Resolutions and decisions concerning specific items considered by the Special Committee in 1998

11. In addition to resolution 53/68, the Assembly adopted 10 other resolutions and four decisions relating to specific items considered by the Special Committee in 1998, which are listed below. Members will wish to take them into account in drawing up the Special Committee's programme of work for 1999.

A. Resolutions and decisions concerning specific Territories

1. Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Western Sahara	53/64	3 December 1998
New Caledonia	53/65	3 December 1998
Tokelau	53/66	3 December 1998
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	53/67 A and B	3 December 1998

2. Decisions

Territory	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
East Timor	53/402	15 September 1998
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	53/414	2 November 1998
Gibraltar	53/420	3 December 1998

B. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	53/60	3 December 1998
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories	53/61	3 December 1998
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	53/62	3 December 1998
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	53/63	3 December 1998
Dissemination of information on decolonization	53/69	3 December 1998

C. Decision concerning other questions

Title	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	53/419	3 December 1998

IV. Other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

12. Other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session that are relevant to the work of the Special Committee are listed below.

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Latin American States	53/9	22 October 1998
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community	53/17	29 October 1998

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Oceans and the law of the sea	53/32	24 November 1998
Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic	53/34	25 November 1998
Questions relating to information	53/59 A and B	3 December 1998
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity	53/91	7 December 1998
International cooperation against the world drug problem	53/115	9 December 1998
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action	53/120	9 December 1998
Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa	53/126	9 December 1998
International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	53/129	9 December 1998
Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and the convening of a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	53/132	9 December 1998
Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination	53/134	9 December 1998
Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the rights of peoples to self-determination	53/135	9 December 1998
Right to development	53/155	9 December 1998
Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action	53/166	9 December 1998
Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development	53/183	15 December 1998
Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	53/189	15 December 1998
Convention on Biological Diversity	53/190	15 December 1998
Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2000–2001	53/206	18 December 1998
Pattern of conferences	53/208	18 December 1998
Questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999	53/214	18 December 1998
Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999	53/215	18 December 1998

Notes

[1] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fifty-third sessions. For the most recent, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/50/23); ibid., A/51/23; A/52/23 and A/53/23.

[2] A/53/23 (Parts I–IX) (to be issued in final form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/53/23)*.

[3] Ibid., Part I, chap. I, sect. J.